seeks to increase productive efficienty of the Indian steel industry by articulating measures for removing major supply side bottlenecks. The combind effect of all these measures on the supply and demand side would help in containing domestic cost, checking price volatility and increasing international competitiveness of Indian steel, which in turn would boost steel exports.

Merger of IISCO with SAIL

992. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL had sought some precondition from Government before merger of IISCO with SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the specific time schedule for completion of merger;

(d) whether any modernization/expansion has been envisaged for Burnpur Works of IISCO in the perspective plan of SAIL;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith investment plan for the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has stipulated the following preconditions before merger of Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO) with SAIL;

(1) Central Government may provide relief towards accumulated losses as on the date of merger through Steel Development Fund (SDF) mechanism as was done in case of merger of Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited (VISL) with SAIL.

(2) Continuation of reliefs/concessions from West Bengal Government as envisaged in the rehabilitation package of IISCO even after merger.

(3) Central Government/State Government be requested for renewal of leases of mines & collieries of IISCO including Chiria mines.

Accordingly, SAIL has proposed that the merger of IISCO (a 100% subsidiary of SAIL) with SAIL be carried out on a clean slate basis, waiving off the accumulated losses of IISCO as per audited accounts upto March, 2005 along with arrears to IISCO employees through Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan waiver mechanism.

(c) No specific time frame has been fixed for completion of merger.

(d) to (f) IISCO has been asked to prepare a future plan for modernisation/expansion of capacity matching with the time frame of the Corporate Plan of SAIL. The amount of investment will be known after finalisation of future plans.

Funds for cleaning of beaches in Mumbai

993. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided any funds for the breaches in Mumbai for cleaning to keep the environment in safe, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.